

Message Text

SECRET

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62

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 011013Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 479
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 2300

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PFOR SU US UR
SUBJECT: GOS CONCERN RE COMMUNISTS

1. DURING COUTESY CALL ON NEW MININT MUZZAMIL SULIMAN GHANDOUR, SEPT 30, HE TOLD ME HE HOPED USG/GOS RELATIONS WOULD SOON IMPROVE. SUDAN WAS "UNDER SOME PRESSURE" FROM RUSSIANS. SSU POLITBURO MEMBER KHALID HASSAN ABBAS HAD JUST RETURNED FROM MOSCOW WHERE SOVIETS HAD IMPORTUNED HIM REGARDING RELEASE SUDANESE COMMUNISTS LONG HELD IN LOCAL JAILS HERE. ABBAS REPORTEDLY RESPONDED THIS WAS INTERNAL MATTER. THERE WERE ALSO SIGNS HERE OF INCREASING ACTIVITY BY FORMER SO-CALLED "NATIONAL COMMUNISTS", SOME OF WHOM HIGH IN SSU COUNCILS. INDIVIDUALS WERE SEEKING CAPITALIZE ON RECENT ABORTIVE COUP BY CLAIMING ONLY THEY SUPPORTED NIMEIRI AND THAT SITUATION THUS BACK TO 1971 AFTER COUP/COUNTER-COUP. AUTHORITIES HAD TAKEN STEPS THROUGH PRESS COUNTER THIS LINE BUT INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE WERE BEING CLOSELY WATCHED. IT MIGHT SOON BE NECESSARY REMOVE SOME FROM SSU.

2. I TOLD GHANDOUR I HAD FOUND IN WASHINGTON GENERAL DESIRE FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH GOS BUT THERE WERE PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH AFFECTED THE TIMING. ANYTHING WHICH GOS COULD DO TO ASSIST US ON NUMBER CURRENT PROBLEMS COULD ONLY ACCELERATE THE NORMALIZATION PROCESS. REFERRING BRIEFLY MY
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TALKS WITH KIBEID RE KAGNEW 4 HOSTAGES, I SAID THAT WE HAD

BEEN GRATIFIED NOTE NIMEIRI'S WILLINGNESS SEE WHAT HE COULD DO AND HOPED INDIVIDUALS WOULD SOON BE RELEASED. GHANDOUR TOOK THE POINT AND SAID HE WOULD DO WHAT HE COULD IN SEEKING MOVE THIS MATTER ALONY.

3. I ALSO BRIEFED GHANDOUR RE EXTENT OUR PROPOSED FLOOD RELIEF AID, NOTHING THIS HELP CLEARLY SHOWS FUNDAMENTAL GOOD INTENTIONS OF AMERICANS TOWARD SUDANESE. GHANDOUR AGREED AND SAID HE HOPED USG HELP WOULD BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED HERE IN EFFORT SHOW THAT GOS NOT UNDULY ISOLATED FROM USG.

4. COMMENT. ABBAS HEADED SSU DELEGATION TO RECENT AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY MEETING MOSCOW. ACCORDING PRESS HE WAS RECEIVED BY PDGORN. GHANDOUR'S CONCERN AT CONTINUING COMMUNIST AITIVITIES REPRESENTS ONLY LATEST IN A NUMBER OF SUCH STATEMENTS WHICH WE HAVE HEARD FROM SENIOR SUDANESE OFFICIALS (CF. PARA 2 KHARTOUM 1317). OUR INTERLOCUTORS CLEARLY HOPE FOR EARLY IMPROVEMENTS IN USG/GOS TIES AS MEANS OF STRENGTHENING THEIR HAND AGAINST FORMER SUDANESE "NATIONAL COMMUNISTS" AND THEIR ERSTWHILE COLLABORATORS. BREWER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KHARTO02300
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750340-0926
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751093/aaaadexw.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <29 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOS CONCERN RE COMMUNISTS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SU, US, UR, (GHANDOW, MUZZAMIL SULIMAU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006